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Cropsey Applauds Restoration of Transportation Funding

LANSING – Senator Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, today announced his support for the “Priorities First” program introduced by Senate Republicans to restore funding to 34 critical road projects in Michigan. The “Priorities First” program will allow local communities to continue key road projects which were deferred by Governor Jennifer Granholm’s “Preserve First” initiative.

“Road construction and repairs should be funded by the state of Michigan in a manner that prioritizes the most critical projects first,” Cropsey said. “We should continue to focus fixing the roads with the greatest need first and not allow political favoritism to change the course of our actions.”

The “Priorities First” program will restore funding for the US-127 road project, located south of St. Johns to Ithaca, Clinton and Gratiot counties.

The Republican initiative will restore funding for 34 critical road projects, based on objective criteria, as proposed in the 2002 Five Year Road and Bridge program. The restored funding will assist local units of government who have already put time and money into the proposed road construction locations in their communities.

Gov. Granholm’s “Preserve First” program deferred the projects without any notice to state legislators, local governments or road building organizations. Local communities around the state were also surprised by her initiative.

Two public hearings on the deferred road projects have been scheduled to allow local citizens and governments to make their concerns heard. The first hearing will be conducted on Wednesday, April 30 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hudsonville City Hall Chambers, 3275 Central Blvd., Hudsonville. The second meeting will take place in Pontiac, Oakland County, with a time and location to be announced later this week.